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BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health
for 1966

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Town Hall,
Biddulph.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BIDDULPH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1966. There was a relatively small increase in the total population which rose by 230. Of this increase, 150 were due to natural increase. The reduction in the number of immigrants to the district reflected the completion of the estate for miners and the slowing down of private enterprise building.

Total live births decreased quite sharply from 351 in 1965 to 299, but the live birth rate remained above the national rate. Illegitimate births also fell, from 14 to 9 but the number of stillbirths rose from 4 to 7.

There were 9 infant deaths, 6 of these occurring in the perinatal period (i.e., during the first week of life) and due to prematurity. The remaining 3 were due to infective conditions which could have responded to treatment but failed to do so.

Deaths increased to 149, and the crude death rate rose to 9.3 per 1,000 population. Degenerative diseases of the heart and blood vessels remained the major group of fatal diseases, causing 54 per cent. of all deaths. As may be expected, the majority of these deaths occurred in elderly people, but many did occur in younger age groups, particularly sudden deaths in males due to coronary disease. There is no doubt that many of these deaths could be postponed by individual preventive action in avoiding those courses of action which accelerate degenerative change. Degenerative changes can not be reversed, but can be slowed down and much chronic ill health and too early death is preventable now.

Cancer of the lung again caused four deaths, all in middle-aged males. However, there was a drop in deaths from infective conditions of the lung; deaths from pneumonia rose, but those from bronchitis fell markedly. As I said last year, these apparent major swings are of little significance in a small population. A real and permanent reduction will not occur until the major contributory factors of industrial dust, atmospheric pollution and cigarette smoking are reduced or eliminated.

The Council's water undertaking was finally transferred to the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board on and from 1st April, 1966.

The month of March saw the completion and occupation of the new Town Hall which now provides an attractive centre to the District.

During the year a pilot plant installed at the sewage works continued to function in accordance with expectations and to provide data for the Consultants, whose final recommendations for the reconstruction of the works were awaited at the end of the year. The Biddulph Park sewage scheme commenced in October and work proceeded during the remainder of the year.

The Church Road recreation ground was completed in 1966 and as anticipated work was in progress on the Halls Road scheme.

Council employees were examined as necessary in connection with the Sick Pay Scheme and Superannuation Scheme. Eight were examined during the course of the year.

The Meals on Wheels service, admirably run by the W.V.S. and other volunteer helpers, which had started rather cautiously in 1965, continued to expand to provide this welcome service to needy cases. By the end of the year the meals, which are provided twice weekly, had reached a total of 300 per month.

In submitting this Report, I wish to record my appreciation of the capable assistance given at all times by your Public Health Inspector and to thank your Surveyor for his comments on Water Supply and Sewage Works.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TOLLAND.

SECTION A

General Statistics

	1966	1965
Area (in acres)	6,647	6,647
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of home population (all ages)	16,000	15,770
Number of persons per acre	2.41	2.37
Number of houses in the Rate Book at 1st April, 1966	4,873	4,667
Rateable value at 1st April, 1966	£349,840	£337,995
Sum represented by a penny rate (Estimated) for financial year 1966/7	£1461.738	£1420.597

Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	156	143	299
Illegitimate births	8	1	9
Illegitimate live births per 1,000 live births	= 30		
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	= 18.69		
Adjusted birth rate	= 17.2 (comparability factor 0.92)		
Birth Rate (England and Wales) =	17.7		

Note on Adjusted Birth Rate

Local birth rates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower, and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas and it is therefore apparent that the elimination by standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	4	3	7
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births =	22.6		
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	= 15.4		
Total live and still births	160	146	306
(Illegitimate)	8	1	9

	Male	Female	Total
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year of age...)	6	3	9
(Illegitimate)	1	—	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births—Total	=	30.1	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Legitimate =		27.6	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Illegitimate =		3.3	
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	=	19.0	

(The lowest annual rate ever recorded in this country.)

	Male	Female	Total
Neonatal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks of age)	5	1	6
(Illegitimate)	1	—	1
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	=	20.1	
Neonatal Mortality Rate (England and Wales) =		12.9	
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	=	20.1	
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	=	11.1	
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births	=	42.5	
Perinatal mortality rate (England and Wales)	=	26.3	
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	=	0	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	=	0	

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths—all ages	81	68	149
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population ... =		9.3	
Adjusted death rate	=	12.4	
(Comparability factor 1.34)			

NOTE.—This comparability factor is obtained and used, on a similar principle to that for comparability for births.

Death rate (England and Wales)

= 11.7

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1966

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	—	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	8	18
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	19	24
Coronary Disease, Angina	26	13	39
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1	1
Other Heart Disease... ..	6	7	13
Other Circulatory Disease	—	4	4
Pneumonia... ..	3	5	8
Bronchitis... ..	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	8	4	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents... ..	2	—	2
All other Accidents	7	1	8
Suicide... ..	1	1	2
	—	—	—
Total...	81	68	149

Causes of Death

Malignant disease (Cancer) : 25 deaths were due to this i.e., 16.7% of all deaths. Cancer of the lung killed 4 males, aged 57, 67, 67 and 83.

Cardio-Vascular disease: This caused 81 deaths i.e., 54.4% of all deaths. 21 of the 81 deaths occurred in people under the age of 65.

Respiratory disease: (Pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory disease) caused 11 deaths i.e., 7.4% of all deaths.

Accidental Deaths

1966 was an unfortunate year regarding accidental deaths, 10 deaths occurring, 2 due to motor vehicle accidents and 8 due to other accidents.

The two motor vehicle accidents involved male pedal cyclists aged 8 and 18 who were killed as a result of collisions with motor vehicles.

Three of the accidents, involving males aged 33, 47 and 57, occurred in a local coal mine. All three miners died from injuries received as a result of roof falls while working underground.

Two died from injuries sustained in falls, a male aged 91 who fell in a residential home and a female aged 79 who fell in a public park.

One male aged 86 died from coronary thrombosis and burns caused by the overturning of an electric fire at home.

One male aged 32 who died from cardiac arrest after receiving a blow in abdomen by ball whilst playing football.

One male aged 51 was drowned when he fell into a ditch at night.

Suicide

There were two cases, one a male aged 33 who killed himself by inhaling carbon monoxide fumes from a motor vehicle and a female aged 64 who died from barbiturate poisoning from an overdose of Seconal capsules accelerated by coronary atheroma.

INFANT MORTALITY—Deaths under one year of age.

Male—2 hours	Primary failure and atelectasis
Female—4 months	Capillary bronchitis
Male—4 days	Prematurity
Male—1 hour	Prematurity
Male—4 minutes	Asphyxia, post prematurity and elderly prima gravida
Male—7 hours	Prematurity
Female—1 day	Atelectasis and prematurity
Male—5 months	Pneumonia and natural causes
Female—6 months	Acute bronchiolitis

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Urban District Council is the Sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services. It delegates to its Health Committee "Authority and power to institute any proceedings or to do any act which the Council might have instituted or done for the suppression of nuisances and the safeguarding of public health. but not the raising of any loans or the making of any rate or contract."

The following additional committees are responsible in one form or another with matters of public health: Housing and Planning and Building.

Staffordshire County Council, as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act 1946, administers all local authority health functions within the Urban District. These include National and Child Welfare, Domiciliary Midwifery, General Nursing, Health Visiting, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, Ambulance Service, Home Help Service and Mental Welfare. Day to day administration is carried out by the Leek Area Health Committee on which the Council has a representative.

Ambulance Service (Section 27)

The Biddulph Station adjoins the Fire Station in Princess Street. There is one ambulance and two sitting case cars and a staff of six—one officer and 5 drivers.

The Station is open from 8.0 a.m. to 10.0 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. on Saturday. Outside these hours the service is covered by local staff on call or by adjacent 24 hour stations.

Public Health Laboratory Service

Biddulph is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. It is a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected and actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water, the testing of sampled milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the bacteriological testing of ice-cream, synthetic cream, and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer. Its staff is available to

participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

Sputum : During 1966 the laboratory services investigated 18 specimens of sputum submitted for examination for the tubercle bacillus. 12 of the specimens were examined by direct microscopy and one was positive to this test. 11 were submitted to examination by cultural methods and eight were positive for tubercle bacilli.

Faeces : 24 specimens were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination, from known or suspected cases of dysentery of which 8 were positive and 16 negative. The 8 positive samples were taken from one family of 3 persons notified as cases of dysentery.

Vaccines : The laboratory distributes in the prevention of disease, diphtheria prophylactic, and calf lymph for smallpox vaccination. It makes available measles prophylactic for the passive immunisation of contacts and distributes outfits for the collection of pathological material.

For the convenience of local medical practitioners and for use at the Infant Welfare Centre the following antigenic materials are held available at the Town Hall: Poliomyelitis vaccine, triple antigen (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) combined diphtheria tetanus antigen, tetanus toxoid and diphtheria prophylactic in several forms. No stock of calf lymph is held at the Town Hall.

Mortuary

The Council's mortuary is situated in Wharf Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required. The mortuary was used on nine occasions during 1966 and eight post-mortems were carried out.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevalence of notifiable infectious and other diseases during the year was considerably lower than the previous year.

The number of confirmed notifications of infectious disease in 1966 was 96 compared to 123 in 1965 and 188 in 1964.

A table showing the notifications of infectious diseases during 1966 appears in the report on page 14.

The Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital for the area is at Bucknall—a comparatively short distance away. This hospital receives all types of infectious disease with the exception of smallpox which is treated at the Witton Smallpox Hospital, Birmingham. Admission is arranged directly by the local general practitioners and transport is provided by the local Ambulance Service.

Scarlet Fever

This disease was considerably less prevalent in 1966—3 cases occurred compared to 32 in 1965 and 9 in 1964.

The disease in general is now a very mild one and responds readily to treatment.

Whooping Cough

No case was notified for the second consecutive year compared to 7 in 1964 and 27 in 1963.

The use of combined antigen giving simultaneous protection against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus is no doubt largely responsible for the reduced incidence of this disease. Initial protection is given in infancy, the primary course consisting of three injections commencing when the baby is three to four months old.

Measles

An epidemic of measles commenced during August and continued to the end of the year, 83 cases being notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

The district was again free of this disease during 1966.

Vaccination is now available to all under 40 years of age using either oral (live) or killed (Salk) vaccine by injection.

Diphtheria

There has again been no case in Biddulph. Continued freedom

from this disease is dependent on complete immunisation of the childhood population. Parents should be fully aware of their duty to have the children immunised in infancy. The state of immunity is achieved by three injections with one month between, and should be commenced at four months of age. It is now customary to use a combined vaccine which confers simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. A booster dose should be given at ages 2 and 5 years, and it is desirable to give a further booster during school life, at age 8—10 years.

The absence of the disease from the community will continue to depend on parental response to the educative efforts of all health workers. A fall in the level of community protection could result in frank cases of diphtheria reappearing.

Dysentery

3 cases were notified, all in one family.

Acute Pneumonia

Four cases were notified compared to 3 in 1965 and 3 in 1964. The ages were 5, 7, 34 and 44. No admission was made to hospital.

Food Poisoning

No case was notified in 1966.

Tuberculosis

The year commenced with a total of 64 persons on the Register and a further 3 persons were added during the year—all new cases.

A careful review of all cases was conducted during the year and it was found possible to remove 24 names from the Register. 22 of these being removed following recovery from infection and 2 transferred to other areas. A total of 43 cases remained on the Register at the end of 1966.

The new cases are always of interest. All were of pulmonary type, the ages being, males 41 and 55 years and female 49 years.

In recent years the number of new cases has been fairly steady, despite the rise in population. The proportion of cases in Biddulph at 31-12-66 was 2.7 per 1,000 population, which is a considerable decrease on the previous year, for the reason given above.

The Health Visitors provide progress reports on tuberculosis patients already on the register and report upon environmental conditions of new patients.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The following figures have been supplied to me by the Leek Area Health Office of the County Council showing the work done in the district under the County Council's Vaccination and Immunisation Scheme.

SMALLPOX :

VACCINATION	0— 1 year	1
	1— 4 years	60
	5—14 years	17
	15 and over	—
		—
		78

RE-VACCINATION:

0— 1 year	—
1— 4 years	1
5—14 years	5
15 and over	—
	—
	6

TRIPLE :

PRIMARY	Under 1 year	23
	1— 4 years	117
	5— 9 years	5
	10—14 years	1
		—
		146

REINFORCING:

Under 1 year	2
1— 4 years	56
5— 9 years	9
10—14 years	3
	—
	70

DIPHTHERIA/PERTUSSIS :

PRIMARY: Nil

REINFORCING: Nil

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS

PRIMARY:

Under 1 year	—
1— 4 years	1
5— 9 years	6
10—14 years	12
	—
	19

REINFORCING.

Under 1 year	1
1— 4 years	9
1— 9 years	5
10—14 years	—
	—
	15

DIPHTHERIA ONLY

PRIMARY:

Nil

REINFORCING:

Nil

PERTUSSIS ONLY:

PRIMARY:

Nil

REINFORCING:

Nil

TETANUS ONLY

PRIMARY:

0— 4 years	—
5—14 years	4
	—
	4

REINFORCING:

0— 4 years	2
5—14 years	—
	(
	2

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT—CONFIRMED NOTIFICATIONS 1957—1966

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Scarlet Fever	... 12	23	35	5	13	3	1	9	32	3
Whooping Cough	... 6	—	1	59	3	—	27	7	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis										
Paralytic	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	... 4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	... 218	23	212	2	506	7	173	165	78	83
Diphtheria	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	... —	—	—	—	45	43	4	—	5	3
Meningococcal infection	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	... 14	11	22	9	14	5	2	3	3	4
Smallpox	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis										
Infective	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Post-Infectious	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	... 2	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	... 10	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis										
Respiratory	... 11	9	5	7	7	4	4	2	5	2
Non-Respiratory	... 5	2	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	... —	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	... 1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals...	283	69	278	86	592	64	214	188	123	96

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS, 1966

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 31-12-65	33	2	22	7	64
Number of cases added during the year	2	—	1	—	3
Number of cases removed during year	13	—	7	4	24
Number of cases on Register at 31-12-66	22	2	16	3	43

Cases added to the Register:

New notifications 3

Total... 3

Cases removed from the Register:

Removed to other areas 2
Recovered 22
Died —

Total... 24

SECTION D

Water Supplies

The Urban District Council which, since its constitution in 1894 had been responsible for the supply of water in the District relinquished this duty on 31st March, 1966, when, on the order of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the undertaking was amalgamated with that of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board.

Water Sampling

27 samples of water were submitted to bacteriological examination with the following results:—

RAW SUPPLIES—

Biddulph Park Springs	2 Samples	Satisfactory
Elmhurst Borehole	2 Samples	Satisfactory

PIPED SUPPLIES—

Biddulph Park Supply		
(Chlorinated)	5 Samples	Satisfactory
Biddulph Moor Supply		
(Chlorinated)	4 Samples	Satisfactory
Whitemoor Supply	5 Samples	2 Unsatisfactory
Mid-Cheshire Supply	1 Sample	Satisfactory
Staffordshire Potteries Water		
Board	5 Samples	Satisfactory
Private Supply (Springs)	3 Samples	2 Unsatisfactory

The Whitemoor supply, the source of which is a spring, and which supplies 16 houses, is untreated and periodically reveals evidence of slight contamination.

The private spring supply from which two samples were reported as unsatisfactory, is in an area not served by the Council's water mains.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the principle work undertaken under the Public Health Act, etc. During the year 63 complaints were received and investigated. 13 preliminary and 6 statutory notices were served for housing defects and 78 for the provision of suitable dustbins.

Inspections and revisits made with respect to:—

Complaints and housing defects	180
(Nuisances or defects found	172
Nuisances or defects remedied	167)
Refuse accommodation... ..	522
Refuse collection... ..	422
Drainage... ..	87
Closet conversions	7
Watercourses, ditches, sewers, etc.	12
Water supply (sampling, etc.)	31
Infectious diseases	26
Caravans... ..	41
Interviews—owners and tradesmen	81
Miscellaneous	64

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) Sewage Works

During the past twelve months, the quality of the effluent discharged into the Biddulph Brook has, inevitably, with flows through the works nearly 50 per cent. in excess of design capacity, fallen short of the standard which would normally be required.

Day to day operation and maintenance at the works has throughout the year been directed towards achieving the best effluent possible under the circumstances and the small pilot plant which became operative in the second half of the year has made a quite material contribution in this respect.

The latter was constructed as a small scale version of the aeration and sedimentation tanks, which will form the basic components of the proposed new works extensions, in order to obtain factual information on the nature of the sludge which the new works will produce. Most of the necessary information in this respect has now been obtained and it is anticipated that the Council's Consultant Engineer will shortly be in a position to submit to the Council their recommendations on the type of sludge treatment plant to be installed.

Last years forecast of progress on the extensions has, unfortunately, proved unduly optimistic but it would now appear that a Contract for the works may be entered into before the end of 1967.

(b) Sewerage Generally

The Biddulph Park sewerage scheme, comprising new sewers and a small self-contained treatment works to serve 24 properties, was finally approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Work on the carrying out of the scheme commenced in October, 1966

The Council approved in principle the carrying out of a sewerage scheme to serve 9 properties in the Rock End area and the Surveyor was instructed to prepare details of the scheme for submission to the Minister.

Closet Conversions

All properties in the district with pail closets, etc., capable of being connected to the Council's sewers have been converted to water closets. There are still approximately 250 houses, mainly situated in the outlying and unsewered parts of the district, provided with pail closets, the majority of which are emptied by Council workmen. When the Biddulph Park sewerage scheme is completed a further 18 pail closets will be converted to water closets.

Public Conveniences

The Public Conveniences at Wharf Road and Knyppersley have operated normally during the year, and the repair of periodic damage by vandals continues to constitute the main item of expense in the maintenance of the conveniences.

Clean Air Act

The smoke recording apparatus installed in 1959 was discontinued in April, 1966, when the new office accommodation in the Town Hall was occupied. It was considered that the readings taken over a period of seven years had served a useful purpose in supplying information to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, but as the Urban District had no serious atmospheric pollution problem further readings were considered unnecessary.

No action has yet been taken in connection with smoke control areas and none is contemplated.

Caravans

Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, occupiers of sites and/or caravans are required to obtain licenses from the Council. The Act is designed to control sites from both planning and Public Health aspects. There is one licensed site in the district, for a maximum of 21 caravans.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This new Act, the main provisions of which came into force during 1964, is designed to make provision for securing the health,

safety and welfare of persons employed to work in offices or shop premises and certain railway premises.

The Act contains provisions concerning cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary and washing facilities, drinking water, machinery, first-aid and fire precautions.

The occupiers of all premises to which the Act applies are required to register their premises with the appropriate authority, generally the local authority or Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

By the end of the year a total of 74 premises had been registered and all had received a general inspection. A total of 113 contraventions was found in registered premises. By the end of the year only a few contraventions were outstanding.

The following is a summary of the various types of premises :

Class of premises	No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of persons employed
Offices	13	37
Retail Shops	55	229
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	10
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ...	3	20
Fuel storage depots	—	—
	—	—
Totals...	74	296
	—	—

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises : 44

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection services continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. A weekly collection service was maintained to all parts of the district, except to premises in the more scattered parts which receive a fortnightly service. A total of 5,133 premises receive a weekly service and 176 premises a fortnightly service.

A free service is given to householders for the collection of unwanted furniture, household articles, etc., and twelve requests for this service were made.

The Council approved a scheme which came into operation in October, 1966, whereby a nominal charge was made for the removal of trade refuse from shops and offices. The charge is based on rateable value and varies between £2 and £7 per annum. A special charge is made for the removal of trade refuse from factories, based on the amount collected.

Difficulty was experienced at times in maintaining a regular service due mainly to the non-availability of suitable labour and the continued periods of inclement weather.

The Council's bonus scheme continued in operation throughout the year, but despite this it became necessary to increase the labour force to deal with the ever-increasing demands on the service arising from the occupancy of new houses.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on waste land at Bemersley, but as this site will shortly be completed, tipping will then take place in a small disused quarry at Mow Cop. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a further site for tipping when the Mow Cop quarry is filled and negotiations are taking place concerning additional land at Bemersley.

The collection of nightsoil is carried out by the Council's gully emptying machine, specially adapted for the purpose and is disposed of at the sewage works. Approximately 170 pails are emptied, the majority weekly. It is not anticipated that this number will show any marked reduction during the next few years.

Salvage

The collection of waste paper salvage continued during the year, by means of trailers attached to the refuse vehicles. Sales of paper during the financial year 1966-67 were 144 tons, value £1,256.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The Council employs one part-time rodent operator for the destruction of rats and mice. A free service is given to private dwelling-houses and when business or agricultural premises are treated the cost is charged to the occupier.

Regular treatment of the Council's refuse tip and sewage works and a further treatment for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out.

The following table gives details of work undertaken during the year:—

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE—1966

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.—Number of properties in district... ..	5325	97
2.—(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	51	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats...	34	—
(ii) Mice ..	2	—
3.—(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	157	1
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats...	11	—
(ii) Mice ..	—	—

FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories without mechanical power (S.1.2.3.4.6.)	—	—	—
(ii) Factories with mechanical power (S.7)	31	37	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	—	—
(iv) Outworkers	22	—	—
(Wearing Apparel, making, etc.)			
Total ...	59	37	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	1	2
(c) Not separate for sexes...	—	—	—
Other offences	4	1	—
Total ...	6	2	2

SECTION E—HOUSING

Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise	105
Number of houses erected by Local Authority	Nil

105

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	18
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	66
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head 2 (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of houses where defects were remedied ...	10
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3. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957... ..	—
(b) Notices served under Public Health Acts requiring defects to be remedied... ..	3
(c) Number of houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices	3
(d) Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957... ..	—
(e) Number of houses included under sub-head 3 (d) above, in respect of which an undertaking was accepted by the Council	—
(f) Number of Demolition Orders made	—
(g) Number of unfit houses demolished	—
(h) Number of Closing Orders made	—

Unfit Houses

No further action has been possible during the year with the Brook Street, Brown Lees Clearance Area, pending the acquisition of the necessary land and the building of houses to rehouse the occupants of the 14 unfit houses.

Rent Act 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair were made during the year.

Improvement Grants

Thirty-five applications were received during the year for Improvement Grants, 3 for Discretionary Grants and 32 for Standard Grants. 29 of the applications were approved involving maximum grants totalling £4,498, 5 were deferred and one refused.

Since the scheme commenced in June, 1959, 232 applications for Standard Grants have been received of which 205 have been approved, 11 refused, 6 withdrawn, 5 deferred and 5 waiting approval. Of the 205 applications approved, 185 were from owner-occupiers and 20 concerned rented houses.

The provision of standard amenities to 20 houses was completed during the year, concerning the provision of 19 baths, 20 washbasins, 18 hot water supplies, 18 internal water closets and 13 foodstores. Grants paid during the year amounted to £2,625 in respect of 20 houses.

Every opportunity has been taken in publicising the improvement grants scheme and advice and assistance is readily given to all interested persons. It is difficult to understand why more advantage is not taken of the scheme, when it is realised that many good terrace-type houses can be supplied with a bathroom, hot and cold water supply, etc., at a cost to the owner of less than £100.

A total of 237 inspections and visits was made concerning improvement grants.

SECTION F

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There are three private slaughterhouses in the district used by five butchers and all operated fairly satisfactorily during the year.

A 100 per cent. inspection of all carcasses continued to be made and in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulation 1963, all carcasses are stamped.

A total of 356 visits was made to slaughterhouses.

Food Hygiene

The various regulations and byelaws relating to Food Hygiene are enforced within the Urban District. Regular inspections of the varied types of food premises are carried out, with particular reference to the maintenance of hygienic conditions in premises used for the preparation of food.

The majority of retail food shops are of the small general grocery and confectionery type and with the modern trend for pre-packed foods, canned food and frozen food, many shops sell little open food, with a consequent reduction in the risk of contamination.

In accordance with Circular 1/67 of the Ministry of Health concerning Annual Reports the following is a list of the various types of food premises, together with details of premises provided with hot and cold running water, wash-basins, sinks, etc., and the number of inspections made :—

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections	Provided with		
			Hot & Cold water	Wash Basin	Sink
Bakehouses... ..	2	10	2	2	2
Butchers' Shops	11	36	11	9	11
Canteens, Kitchens, etc. ...	18	26	18	18	18
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	4	19	4	4	4
Grocery & mixed business					
Sweets & Confectionery	64	73	64	53	64
Wet Fish & Greengrocery	6	16	6	4	6
Licensed Premises	21	—	21	20	21

Poultry Inspection

The continued increase in the sale of dressed poultry has resulted in more attention being given by local authorities to the inspection of poultry processing establishments to ensure that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene

(General) Regulations 1960 are being observed and that all carcasses intended for human consumption are in a fit condition. There are no processing establishments within the Urban District but the opportunity is taken when visiting food premises to inspect poultry which may be exposed for sale.

Registration of Food Premises

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

(a) Storage and sale of ice-cream	42
(b) Butchers' shops preparing or manufacturing sausage or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	7

None of the 42 ice-cream premises is used for the manufacture of ice-cream. The premises, mainly confectionery and mixed business, sell a pre-packed product, usually supplied by one of the large well-known manufacturers.

There are also three local traders operating vehicles for the manufacture and sale of the "softie" type of ice-cream.

Milk Supply

The County Council Health Department continues to report on the results of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination and biological testing from producer/retailers and retailers throughout the district.

The County sampling officers submitted 179 samples of various types of milk to the laboratory for bacteriological examination and testing. 34 samples of untreated milk were tested biologically for the presence of tuberculosis and 28 were also submitted to the test for brucella abortus. 146 of the samples were submitted to the methylene blue test—a test which denotes the cleanliness of the milk—of which 9, all untreated milk, failed to pass the test.

51 samples were submitted to the phosphatase test—a test carried out on pasteurised milk—and all passed. 33 samples were submitted to the turbidity test—a test carried out on sterilised milk—and all passed. The samples taken for biological testing were all reported as negative to tuberculosis, but 2 samples were positive to brucella abortus. This is the thirteenth consecutive year that no sample has been positive to tuberculosis. The presence of brucella abortus organisms in two samples resulted in notices being served on the producer/retailers and retailers concerned, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, restricting the supply of milk.

A table showing these results appears on the next page.

There are 41 premises registered with the Council as distributors of milk and 41 visits were made to dairies, milk shops, etc.

MILK SAMPLING—1966

SAMPLES TAKEN BY COUNTY COUNCIL IN BIDDULPH

	Untreated Milk		Pasteurised Milk		Sterilised Milk
Methylene Blue Test :					
Pass	86	...	51	...	—
Fail	9	...	—	...	—
Phospatase Test :					
Pass	—	...	51	...	—
Fail	—	...	—	...	—
Turbidity Test :					
Pass	—	...	—	...	33
Fail	—	...	—	...	—
Biological Test for T.B. :					
Negative	34	...	—	...	—
Positive	—	...	—	...	—
Biological Test for Brucella Abortus :					
Negative	26	...	—	...	—
Positive	2	...	—	...	—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	781	102	3	2354	823
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	61	12	—	192	46
Percentages ...	7.8%	11.8%	—	8.1%	5.6%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	7
Percentages13%	—	—	—	.85%
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—

Weights Condemned

Offal (Head and tongue, lungs, liver, heart, etc.)1164lbs.
 Carcase of one sheep 31lbs.

All condemned meat is stained green before leaving the slaughterhouses and is disposed of for animal feeding purposes.

There are 8 men licensed to slaughter animals under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were condemned:—

Sausages	1,380lbs.
Meat Products	253lbs.
Meat Pies	54lbs.
Bacon	52lbs.
Miscellaneous Foods	90lbs.

Total...1,829lbs.

RAINFALL

The following figures of rainfall during the past four years have been kindly supplied by the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

	Rainfall in inches			
	1966	1965	1964	1963
January	2.07	4.19	1.21	.72
February	4.00	.72	.90	.47
March	1.63	2.96	2.92	2.87
April	3.44	2.93	2.77	2.24
May	2.86	3.46	4.49	2.54
June	4.19	3.16	3.20	4.11
July	3.70	3.82	3.84	2.41
August	3.50	3.55	2.57	3.88
September	2.60	7.54	1.29	5.02
October	4.09	.95	2.72	3.18
November	2.56	2.83	2.25	4.89
December	5.27	7.62	4.13	0.44
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Totals...	39.91	43.73	32.29	32.77

G. S. Hagston.
Printer, Biddulph.